

define what applicant believes to be its invention. Further, at page 6, lines 17-19, butane is recited to be non-preferred. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 112 ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 7 were rejected under Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

There claims have been amended to remove "butane" as a possible co-solvent. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant apologizes for not indicating all of the claim changes in the last amendment and attaches hereto a set of revised claims with changes indicated which are believed to highlight all of the changes. In the prior amendment, claim 4 was incorrectly identified as claim 2, claim 7 was incorrectly identified as claim 5, and new claim 27 was incorrectly identified as new claim 22.

The application has been amended to correct minor informalities, to further distinguish the application over the prior art, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention so as to place the application, as a whole, into a prima facie condition for allowance. Great care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new subject matter into the application as a result of the foregoing modifications.

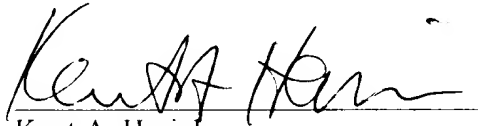
Accordingly, the purpose of the claimed invention is not taught nor suggested by the cited references, nor is there any suggestion or teaching which would lead one skilled in the relevant art to combine the references in a manner which would meet the purpose of the claimed invention. Because the cited references, whether considered alone, or in combination with one another, do not teach nor suggest the purpose of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the prior art, including the art cited merely of record.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that its claims 1-12, 15 and 27, as amended, are in condition for allowance at this time, patentably distinguishing over the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and passage to allowance are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney at (515) 288-2500 to discuss the claims in an effort to reach a mutual agreement with respect to claim limitations in the present application which will be effective to define the patentable subject matter if the present claims are not deemed to be adequate for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

Version with markings to show changes made:

1. (Twice amended) A process for simultaneously extracting [at least a first and a second natural] an organic component from [organic] botanical material, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) selecting the botanical material from a plant of the group consisting of rosemary, sage, hyssop, oregano, thyme, basil, marjoram, spearmint, dittany, and lavender;
 - [(a)] (b) contacting the [organic] botanical material in a vessel with a blend of tetrafluoroethane and at least one organic solvent[s] having a boiling point above 22° C to [simultaneously extract] dissolve the [natural] organic component[s into] in the solvent blend;
 - [(b)] (c) removing the remaining [organic] botanical material from the solution of the [natural] organic component[s] and the solvent blend; and
 - [(c)] (d) removing the solvent blend to isolate [an extract] a liquid, oily product containing the [first and second natural] organic component[s] which has antioxidant activity that is improved over an organic component extracted in the absence of the organic solvent.
4. (Once amended) The process of claim 3, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetone, ethanol, ethylene chloride, hexane, isopropanol, methanol, methylene chloride, and propylene glycol [butane, and hexane].
7. (Once amended) The process of claim 6, wherein the organic solvents are selected from the group including acetone, methanol, [butane,] and hexane.